IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims, as follows:

21. (currently amended) A pneumatic radial ply runflat tire having a tread, a carcass structure comprising at least one radial carcass ply, and two sidewalls ~~and~~ comprising:

a single circumferentially-disposed ~~at least one~~ wedge insert disposed on an inner surface of each sidewall, each wedge insert having a saw-tooth shaped cross-section comprising a plurality of circumferentially disposed segments each of which is separated from one another, during normal-inflated operation, by a plurality of intervening circumferential grooves; ~~and~~

wherein each groove is bounded by an outer surface of a given segment and an inner surface of an adjacent segment; and

~~characterized in that:~~

the outer surface of a given segment and the inner surface of an adjacent segment intersect at a hinge point P, and the segments can therefore pivot with respect to each other.

22. (original) The pneumatic radial ply runflat tire of claim 21 characterized in that:

both the outer surface and the inner surface are flat.

23. (currently amended) The pneumatic radial ply runflat tire of claim 21 characterized in that:

~~each wedge insert has a saw-tooth shaped cross-section.~~

the outer surface of a given segment is convex; and

the inner surface of an adjacent segment is concave;

wherein during runflat operation, when the outer surface engages the inner surface, axial deflection is substantially prevented.

24. (original) The pneumatic radial ply runflat tire of claim 21 characterized in that the outer surface of a given insert and the inner surface of an adjacent insert engage each other during runflat operation.

25. (original) The pneumatic radial ply runflat tire of claim 21 characterized in that:

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the outer surface of a given insert and the inner surface of an adjacent insert are both non-flat surfaces.

26. (original) The pneumatic radial ply runflat tire of claim 21 characterized in that:
an inner liner is disposed on the inner and outer surfaces of the segments.

27. (original) The pneumatic radial ply runflat tire of claim 21 characterized in that:
an inner liner is disposed between the wedge insert and an inner ply of the tire.

28. (original) The pneumatic radial ply runflat tire of claim 21, characterized in that:
the length of the inner and outer surfaces of the segments extend less than the thickness of the insert.

29. (original) A pneumatic radial ply runflat tire having a tread, a carcass structure comprising at least one radial carcass ply, two sidewalls and at least one wedge insert disposed on an inner surface of each sidewall, each wedge insert comprising a plurality of circumferentially disposed segments each of which is separated from one another, during normal-inflated operation, by a plurality of intervening circumferential grooves; and
each groove is bounded by an outer surface of a given segment and an inner surface of an adjacent segment;
characterized in that:
at least one of the outer surface of a given insert and the inner surface of an adjacent insert is a non-flat surface.

30. (original) The pneumatic radial ply runflat tire of claim 29, characterized in that:
the outer surfaces of selected ones of the segments are convex; and
the inner surfaces of selected ones of the segments are concave.

31. (original) The pneumatic radial ply runflat tire of claim 29, characterized in that:
the outer surface of a given segment is convex; and

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the inner surface of an adjacent segment is concave;

wherein during runflat operation, when the outer surface engages the inner surface, axial deflection is substantially prevented.

32. (original) The pneumatic radial ply runflat tire of claim 29, characterized in that:

the outer surface of a given segment is concave; and

the inner surface of an adjacent segment is convex;

wherein during runflat operation, when the outer surface engages the inner surface, axial deflection is substantially prevented.

33. (original) The pneumatic radial ply runflat tire of claim 29, characterized in that:

the outer surface of a given segment and the inner surface of an adjacent segment surfaces intersect at a hinge point P, and the segments can therefore pivot with respect to each other.

34. (original) The pneumatic radial ply runflat tire of claim 29 characterized in that the outer surface of a given insert and the inner surface of an adjacent insert engage each other during runflat operation.

35. (original) The pneumatic radial ply runflat tire of claim 29 characterized in that:

an inner liner is disposed on the inner and outer surfaces of the segments.

36. (original) The pneumatic radial ply runflat tire of claim 29 characterized in that:

an inner liner is disposed between the wedge insert and an inner ply of the tire.

37. (original) The pneumatic radial ply runflat tire of claim 29, characterized in that:

the length of the inner and outer surfaces of the segments extend less than the thickness of the insert.

38. (currently amended) A pneumatic radial ply runflat tire having a tread, a carcass structure comprising at least one radial carcass ply, and two sidewalls ~~and~~ comprising:

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a single circumferentially-disposed ~~at least one~~ wedge insert disposed on an inner surface of each sidewall, each wedge insert having a saw-tooth shaped cross-section comprising a plurality of circumferentially disposed segments each of which is separated from one another, during normal-inflated operation, by a plurality of intervening circumferential grooves; ~~and~~

wherein each groove is bounded by an outer surface of a given segment and an inner surface of an adjacent segment; and

~~characterized in that:~~

an inner liner is disposed on a surface of the wedge insert.

39. (original) The pneumatic radial ply runflat tire of claim 38, characterized in that: the surface of the wedge insert is the inner and outer surfaces of the segments.

40. (original) The pneumatic radial ply runflat tire of claim 38, characterized in that: the inner liner is disposed between the wedge insert and an inner ply of the tire.

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